

REMARKS

In view of the following remarks, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and allowance of the subject application. This Response is believed to be fully responsive to all issues raised in the Office action mailed 10/17/2005 (hereinafter "the present Office action").

Claim Amendments

Claims 1, 2, 5-22, and 25-28 are pending.

Claims 1,2, and 5-22 have been allowed.

Claims 25-28 stand rejected.

Claims 25 and 28 are amended herein.

Rejection Under 35 USC §103(a)

Claims 25-28 stand rejected under 35 USC § 103(a) as being unpatentable over USPN 6,678,421 to Daniell et al. (hereinafter "Daniell") and Yang et al., "A Semantic Classification and Composite Indexing Approach to Robust Image Retrieval", IEEE, 1999 (hereinafter "Yang").

Amended claim 25 recites that "the blocks are only partially coextensive with other blocks of the image". The Examiner is respectfully directed to at least the first element of claim 1. The prior art does not have blocks that are only partially coextensive with other blocks of the image. Withdrawal of the rejection of claim 25 is respectfully requested.

Amended claim 28 recites "forming a plurality of layers by dividing an image into blocks comprising sub-portions of the image". The prior art combination does not divide an image into blocks that comprise sub-portions of an image. Rather, the

prior art *forms or builds* an image by tiling together (with a quad tree) different scaled versions of the same image. The prior art in effect analyzes blocks that are different sizings of a same subject image. Put another way, claim 28 relates to dissecting an image, whereas the prior art combination creates different sizings of a same image. In contrast to the cited art, claim 28 analyzes different sub-portions (divisions) of a same image. Withdrawal of the rejection of claim 28 is respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION

In view of all the foregoing, it is submitted that the pending claims of the present application are all in condition for allowance and such allowance is earnestly solicited. In the event that there are any outstanding matters remaining in the present application, the Office is invited to contact the undersigned to discuss the matters.

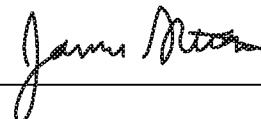
No extensions of time or additional fees are believed to be due with respect to the submission of this Amendment. However, if an extension of time is deemed necessary, Applicants hereby request such extension of time and authorize the Office to charge any associated fees to Deposit Account No. 50-0463.

Respectfully submitted,

Microsoft Corporation

Date: June 22, 2006

By: _____



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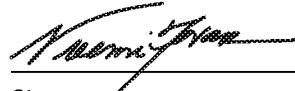
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